



rovers

a commissioners guide to roving

be prepared



name: _____

precimble

This handbook was written in parallel with the implementation of SCOUTS South Africa's (SSA) Organisational Rules (O.R.) 2017 and the subsequent revisions. At the same time, the Policies of SSA were also being prepared, revised, published, and implemented. Should there be any discrepancies between this Handbook and the SSA Constitution and O.R., the Constitution and O.R. take precedence.

If you notice any discrepancies or errors please send the details to rovers@scouts.org.za.

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introduction

Rovers is a unique section within the wider Scouting movement. As young adults, they present their own set of opportunities and challenges. They are hardworking, invested, engaged and supportive members of their Crew and community. As much as other youth, they have the propensity to be opinionated, occasionally unreliable and passionate about what they care about. If they are properly engaged and treated like the young adults that they are, there is no limit to their capacity to better your group, their peers, and the movement as a whole.

All levels of Rovers are self-governing, from the smallest Crew to the National Rover Advisory Council. Rovers set their own programme, strategy, and objectives within the framework of the wider association. As the senior section of the movement, they are just another step on the journey, but as young adults, they have a monumental amount to give to your group and the community!

This guide has been developed to assist non-Rovers in particular District Commissioners and Scout Group Leaders who need to upskill themselves on basic Rovering principles and terminology. It is also recommended that they regularly consult with RTC-Rovers on Rover development in their Group or District.

a few things you should know

What is a Rover?

Like any other section, Rovers have their own language, acronyms and terms that can be uninterpretable to the uninformed. Here's a snapshot of the Rovering journey.

Rovers start at 18, due to the classification of adults in the movement and the swathe of activities that the autonomy and opportunities that that age brings. A Scout wanting to move into Rovers is encouraged to engage with more than just the local Crew in order to find the one that best suits their needs. Uniquely, Rover Crews tend to organise themselves along common interests, whether it be racing cars, doing adventurous activities such as skiing or hiking, performing in the Scout shows or in their dedication to service.

Once a Rover Crew has gotten to know the potential new member, they may accept them into the Crew.

The new member is invested into the Crew as a Squire. A Squire is a member who has not completed the nationally standardised minimum training and state mandated training. Once Squire training is completed, the Crew will have an investiture ceremony to invest the squire as a full Rover or a Knight. You can always tell a Squire from a Knight, as the Rover has the green Rover epaulettes on their shoulders. The age range for Rovers is 18 to 30. On the sad day when a Rover turns 30, they leave Rovers. This is called "end of trail" and often there is a ceremony for the Rover that is attended by many individuals who helped the Rover throughout their Scouting journey.

What is a Rover Crew?

A group of Rovers of course! Rovers are people who meet regularly and participate in a wide range of challenging and interesting activities, such as rock climbing, Whitewater kayaking, car touring, and hiking, whilst learning new skills and making many friends. You can become a Rover when you turn 18 and you can stay in Rovers for up to twelve years. When you turn 30 your Rovering

career comes to an end. Your Crew could be as small as 5 or as large as 20 Rovers. All Crews are different and not all Crews may suit your needs. Recruits are not obligated to join their local Crew. If there are other Crews nearby, they should look around before they decide which Crew is best for them.

Organisation of a Rover Crew

Rover Crews are self-governing. Each Crew elects a team of office bearers to handle its management and day-to-day operation. After undertaking the necessary leadership training, most Rovers will have the opportunity to be elected as the Crew Chairperson, giving them responsibility for the Crew, and furthering their leadership skills.

Traditional or Non-Traditional: What is the difference?

Just like a Cub Pack's structure is based upon the Jungle Book, a Traditional Rover Crew is centred around the stories of the Knights of the Round Table. This theme is used in the training of Rovers to take their place in the Crew and in society. Although this idea may seem dated, the majority of Crews choose to run this way. There are two stages of investiture in Traditional Crews - when you first join you become a Squire, which is a training period before you can become a fully invested Rover, sometimes referred to as a Rover Knight. Once you become a fully invested Rover you are truly a member of the Crew and become more involved in its running.

If you join a non-traditional Crew, you will not use the Knighthood theme. There are still two stages of investiture, as both a Squire and Rover. The only difference is the knighthood theme is not carried out in the running of the Crew.

What do Rovers and Crews do?

Rovers, as their age and transport capabilities allow, have an almost unlimited range of activities to choose from. These range from weekly crew meetings through to Moots, though much of the best Rovering happens at inter crew, region, and national run events.

Brief History of Rovering

Officially, Baden-Powell introduced what he called Senior Scouts in Britain in early 1918. The name of the section was changed to Rover Scouts later in that same year. From there, Rovering spread rapidly. The first large gathering of South African Rovers, known as a Rover Moot, took place in Cape Town in 1988.

Rovers changed dramatically in the 1980's when the section became increasingly self-governing and admitted females. South African Rovers later took a leading role in South Africa's participation in World Moots, when the first contingent attended the 15th World Scout Moot in Iceland in 2017.

Today there are several hundred Rovers across all Regions in South Africa.

Regional and National Rover Advisory Councils

A Region Rover Advisory Council (abbreviated to RAC) is where representatives from every Crew in that Region attend a meeting to exchange ideas, promote events, plan training and public relations activities, and make recommendations to the National Rover Advisory Council. The RAC also ensures good communication by maintaining a directory of all Crews in the Region and is responsible for encouraging the development of new Crews.

The National Rover Advisory Council (NRAC) functions in a similar way to the Regional Rover Advisory Council but is obviously at a National level. The ability for the NRAC to meet regularly is clearly difficult. Its role is to review and plan the development of Rovering in South Africa as a whole, as well as to interact with other sections of Scouting and the community.

Service

The other sections of the Movement have "*Be Prepared*" as their motto. Rovers, however, have their own motto, which is simply "*Service*". Your Rover Crew will endeavour to undertake a range of service projects while you are a Rover. These will include both service to the Movement and service to the wider community.

As a Rover, you may choose to help with a Cub Pack or perhaps you will build a bridge at the local Scout Camp. Possible community service activities that your Crew might undertake include giving blood, meals on wheels, planting trees,

taking disabled people out for a day, bush regeneration, running camps and events for disadvantaged or sick children, or cleaning local monuments.

As a Rover, you will develop a natural talent to find ways of making some of the initially most uninteresting activities fun and rewarding. Don't worry, Service is certainly not a chore. It is a reminder that as a Rover you are part of Scouting and a member of something more than just an outdoors club.

Why won't Rovers be leaders?

Rovers are a development section for young people, providing opportunities for members to transition to leaders once they've finished a full and complete Rover programme. Being a youth section leader is not a core part of the Rover programme, however individual Rovers may decide it is a form of service they would like to deliver to the movement.

The Rover section is not your source of leaders for the group and it is not uncommon for Rovers at your local group to be leaders elsewhere. That being said, it doesn't hurt to ask the Crew and see if you could even entice them to develop a duty roster of Rovers to lend a hand if you're having some real struggles. Remember, in asking for help, as in all things to do with Rovers, treat them like adults and show them the respect you would any other adult member of the movement and you will be surprised at how receptive they may be!

special events

Moots

When Rover Crews get together for a weekend of crazy and unusual activities, it is called a Moot. You can meet many other Rovers from all around the country and the world. There are many varieties of Moot, ranging from National to World Moots. National Moots are often organised around a theme and last for a weekend run by a host Region. World Moots are run similarly to Jamborees and last for about 10 days in a different country each time.

Indabas

Rover Indabas are more formal conference events that incorporate workshops, discussions, and networking activities. This is a great opportunity for Rovers to meet each other's and share their knowledge, ideas, and thoughts about Rovering. This platform aims to drive forward planning for upcoming events, policies, advancement, and programme development.

award scheme

Link Badge

As usual when a Scout is ready to progress to the next section in Scouting, there is a Link badge. This is designed to help a Scout meet the Rovers in a prospective Crew, and to show just what Rovers get up to. This is actually a Scout badge, so if a Scouts wishes to gain this it must be completed before one leave Scouts. You'll find the requirements in the Rover Trail.

B-P Award

This is the highest award that Rovers choose to undertake and is the highest youth award in Scouting. It is an individual challenge, where a Rover sets their own goals, but they must be approved by the Crew before they start. Rovers are challenged to reach the highest standard of which they are personally capable in four development areas, namely Personal, Movement, Community and Leadership. It generally takes at least five years of work to complete the B-P Award.

Rover Trail

View the entire Rover advancement programme in this document available on the national website. This will take you through the different stages a Rover would progress.

Worldwide Rovering

Rovers are not just a local affair - one of the best aspects of Rovering is meeting other Rovers from around South Africa and the world. Overseas you can find Rovers in New Zealand, across South East Asia, Japan, Taiwan, Mexico, Canada, Switzerland, most Scandinavian countries, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Portugal, and Germany. Not all countries have Rovers, notably Britain and the USA. When you go travelling, it is possible to find Rover contacts just about anywhere.

Where do I get more information?

If you are interested to read some more about what the Rover section is all about and how it works, there are some handbooks available online under the resources tab at www.scouts.org.za/rovers

Lone Rovers

If you are in a remote part of South Africa, or there is no Crew in your local area, or perhaps you are a shift worker or in the defence forces, you can become a member of the Lone Rover Crew. By being a Lone, you remain a member of SCOUTS South Africa, and can correspond with other Lone Rovers and organise joint activities, as well as take part in major Rover activities. Please contact your RTC Rover Programme on this option.

Moving for University?

If a Scout / Rover is moving away from your Region to attend University, you will find there are Rover Crews in most urban areas, through the Region you would be studying. While they may have a "home" Crew we strongly advise them to join a Crew in their new Region to keep progressing through the programme and being an active Rover. Please contact your RTC Rover Programme on this option.

Where to go for more help

This is just a brief overview of the section. There are individuals with decades of knowledge on all things Rover and others who spend an inordinate amount of time giving service to Rovering each week. For all your questions, your RTC: Rovers should be your first point of contact, followed by the Chair: National Rover Programme.